

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A piston ring comprising:
a plurality of surfaces, wherein at least one of said plurality of surfaces includes a first coating of nodular thin dense chromium.
2. A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein said first coating has a thickness of about 0.0002" to about 0.0003".
3. A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein said first coating has a hardness of at least 70 on the Rockwell "C" hardness scale.
4. A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein said first coating has a static coefficient of friction of about 0.12.
5. A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein said first coating withstands temperatures of about -400°F to about 1600°F
6. A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of surfaces includes upper and lower radially extending surfaces each including said first coating of nodular thin dense chromium.
7. A piston ring according to Claim 6, wherein said plurality of surfaces includes a radially inner vertical surface including said first coating of nodular thin dense chromium.
8. A piston ring according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of surfaces includes a radially outer vertical surface having a second coating.
9. A piston ring according to Claim 8, wherein said second coating is a thermal spray coating.

10. A piston ring according to Claim 8, wherein said radially outer vertical surface is exclusive of said first coating.
11. A piston ring according to Claim 8, wherein said radially outer vertical surface having said second coating further includes said first coating of nodular thin dense chromium.
12. A piston ring comprising:
 - upper and lower radially extending surfaces;
 - a radially inner vertical surface;
 - a radially outer vertical surface; and
 - wherein said lower radially extending surface includes a first coating.
13. A piston ring according to Claim 12, wherein said upper radially extending surface includes said first coating.
14. A piston ring according to Claim 12, wherein said radially inner vertical surface includes said first coating
15. A piston ring according to Claim 12, wherein said first coating is nodular thin dense chromium.
16. A piston ring according to Claim 15, wherein said first coating has a hardness of at least 70 on the Rockwell "C" hardness scale.
17. A piston ring according to Claim 15, wherein said first coating has a static coefficient of friction of about 0.12.
18. A piston ring according to Claim 12, wherein said first coating has a thickness of about 0.0002" to about 0.0003".
19. A piston ring according to Claim 12, wherein said radially outer vertical surface includes a second coating of a thermal spray coating.

20. A piston ring according to Claim 19, wherein said radially outer vertical surface further includes said first coating.